

- an executed Assignment, with a request that it be recorded;
- a copy of the Notice To File Missing Parts, Filing Date Granted, mailed 1/18/01;
- a Verified Small Entity Statement; and
- a fee calculation and check transmittal letter and a check in the amount of the fees required for the above.

Kindly amend the above-referenced application as follows:

In the Claims:

Kindly cancel Claim 1 and replace it with:

1. An apparatus for communicating information about a negotiation, comprising:

a multivariate negotiations system including storage space and negotiations software, such negotiations software including an automated negotiations engine for analyzing terms, the analysis of terms comprising understanding the purpose of the terms, formatting the terms according to the purpose, and placing them into user supplied context for use by a user, the automated negotiations engine being responsive to a destination terminal for a first user communicating with the multivariate negotiations system, the destination terminal including software for sending and receiving terms along a communications path which flows through the multivariate negotiations system, the automated negotiations engine also being responsive to an initiating terminal for a second user communicating with the multivariate negotiations system, the initiating terminal including software for sending and receiving terms along a communications path which flows through the multivariate negotiations system,

during iterative processing the automated negotiations engine recognizing the users at the destination terminal and the initiating terminal as negotiators and recognizing one of the users as a deciding entity, such automated negotiations engine further recognizing any changes in the terms and storing in the storage space the terms each terminal proposes, and recognizing the terminal to which proposed terms are being sent as the indicated terminal, and sending terms to the indicated terminal, the automated negotiations engine indicating any changes in the terms until a set of terms is acted upon in a final manner by the deciding entity; and

a contract authority for assigning a unique identifier to such a negotiation at the initiation of negotiations.

2. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the contract authority further comprises a contracts router for routing negotiation information related to a unique identifier.

3. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the contract authority further comprises a central contracts switch for forwarding information from the contracts router to a designated recipient.

4. The apparatus of Claim 3, wherein the contract authority further comprises a dynamic contract manager for querying a contract router for information about an identified negotiation.

5. A method for communicating information about a negotiation, comprising the steps of:

operating a multivariate negotiations system including storage space and negotiations software, such negotiations software including an automated negotiations engine for analyzing terms, the analysis of terms comprising understanding the purpose of the terms, formatting the terms according to the purpose, and placing them into user supplied context for use by a user, the automated negotiations engine being responsive to a destination terminal for a first user communicating with the multivariate negotiations system, the destination terminal including software for sending and receiving terms along a communications path which flows through the multivariate negotiations system, the automated negotiations engine also being responsive to an initiating terminal for a second user communicating with the multivariate negotiations system, the initiating terminal including software for sending and receiving terms along a communications path which flows through the multivariate negotiations system, during iterative processing the automated negotiations engine recognizing the users at the destination terminal and the initiating terminal as negotiators and recognizing one of the users as a deciding entity, such automated negotiations engine further recognizing any changes in the terms and storing in the storage space the terms each terminal proposes, and recognizing the terminal to which proposed terms are being sent as the indicated terminal, and sending terms to the indicated terminal, the automated negotiations engine indicating any changes in the terms until a set of terms is acted upon in a final manner by the deciding entity; and assigning a unique identifier to such a negotiation at the initiation of

negotiations, through the use of a contract authority.

6. The method of Claim 5, wherein the step of assigning a unique identifier further comprises the step of routing negotiation information related to a unique identifier through the use of a contract router.

7. The method of Claim 6, wherein the step of assigning a unique identifier further comprises the step of forwarding information from the contracts router to a designated recipient through the use of a central contracts switch.

8. The method of Claim 7, wherein the step of assigning a unique identifier further comprises the step of querying a contract router for information about an identified negotiation through the use of a dynamic contract manager.

9. An apparatus for communicating dynamic information during a negotiation, comprising:

MS 27 a multivariate negotiations system including storage space and negotiations software, such negotiations software including an automated negotiations engine for analyzing terms, the analysis of terms comprising understanding the purpose of the terms, formatting the terms according to the purpose, and placing them into user supplied context for use by a user, the automated negotiations engine being responsive to a destination terminal for a first user communicating with the multivariate negotiations system, the destination terminal including software for sending and receiving terms along a communications path which flows through the multivariate negotiations system, the automated negotiations engine also being responsive to an initiating terminal for a second user communicating with the multivariate negotiations system, the initiating terminal including software for sending and receiving terms along a communications path which flows through the multivariate negotiations system, during iterative processing the automated negotiations engine recognizing the users at the destination terminal and the initiating terminal as negotiators and recognizing one of the users as a deciding entity, such automated negotiations engine further recognizing any changes in the terms and storing in the storage space the terms each terminal proposes, and recognizing the terminal to which proposed terms are being sent as the indicated terminal, and sending terms to the indicated terminal, the automated negotiations engine indicating any changes in the terms until a set of terms is acted upon in a final manner by the deciding entity; and

a contract authority for assigning a unique identifier to a negotiation at the

initiation of such a negotiation;

a dynamic contract manager for transforming rules for governing negotiations into an active template associated with the unique identifier, the active template containing terms for use during such a negotiation.

10. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the active template further comprises predefined fields.

11. The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the predefined fields further comprise fields formatted to provide variables to computer programs.

12. The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the predefined fields further comprise fields formatted to provide basic negotiation terms.

13. The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the predefined fields further comprise fields formatted to activate transactions during a negotiation.

14. The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the predefined fields further comprise fields formatted to receive variables communicated from a computer program.

15. The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the predefined fields further comprise fields formatted to contain variables and the rules to be applied to those variables.

16. The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the predefined fields further comprise fields

formatted to specify actions to be taken at specified phases in a negotiation.

11/17  
17. The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the predefined fields further comprise fields formatted to apply variables resulting from a designated negotiation iteration to a computer program.

File  
12/18  
18. The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the predefined fields further comprise fields formatted to supply security access control information associated with each variable.

19. A method for communicating dynamic information during a negotiation, comprising the steps of:

operating a multivariate negotiations system including storage space and negotiations software, such negotiations software including an automated negotiations engine for analyzing terms, the analysis of terms comprising understanding the purpose of the terms, formatting the terms according to the purpose, and placing them into user supplied context for use by a user, the automated negotiations engine being responsive to a destination terminal for a first user communicating with the multivariate negotiations system, the destination terminal including software for sending and receiving terms along a communications path which flows through the multivariate negotiations system, the automated negotiations engine also being responsive to an initiating terminal for a second user communicating with the multivariate negotiations system, the initiating terminal including software for sending and receiving terms along a communications path which flows through the multivariate negotiations system, during iterative processing the automated negotiations engine recognizing the users at the destination terminal and the initiating terminal as negotiators and recognizing one of the users as a deciding entity, such automated negotiations engine further recognizing any changes in the terms and storing in the storage space the terms each terminal proposes, and recognizing the terminal to which proposed terms are being sent as the indicated terminal, and sending terms to the indicated terminal, the automated negotiations engine indicating any changes in the terms until a set of terms is acted upon in a final manner by the deciding entity; and assigning a unique identifier to a negotiation at the initiation of such a



negotiation through the use of a contract authority;

transforming rules for governing negotiations into an active template associated with the unique identifier through the use of a dynamic contract manager, the dynamic contract manager also inserting terms for use during such a negotiation into the active template.

20. The method of Claim 19, wherein the step of inserting terms for use further comprises the step of using predefined fields.

21. The method of Claim 20, wherein the step of using predefined fields further comprises the step of formatting the fields to provide variables to computer programs.

22. The method of Claim 20, wherein the step of using predefined fields further comprises the step of formatting the fields to provide basic negotiation terms.

23. The method of Claim 20, wherein the step of using predefined fields further comprises the step of formatting the fields to activate transactions during a negotiation.

24. The method of Claim 20, wherein the step of using predefined fields further comprises the step of formatting the fields to receive variables communicated from a computer program.

25. The method of Claim 20, wherein the step of using predefined fields further

comprises the step of formatting the fields to contain variables and the rules to be applied to those variables.

26  
26. The method of Claim 20, wherein the step of using predefined fields further comprises the step of formatting the fields to specify actions to be taken at specified phases in a negotiation.

27  
27. The method of Claim 20, wherein the step of using predefined fields further comprises the step of formatting the fields to apply variables resulting from a designated negotiation iteration to a computer program.

Rule 126  
28  
28. The method of Claim 20, wherein the step of using predefined fields further comprises the step of formatting the fields to supply security access control information associated with each variable.

Date: July 18, 2001

Cust. No. 27,443  
Telephone: (508)-653-8143

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Stretch  
Maureen Stretch  
Reg. No. 29,447  
26 Charles Street  
Natick, MA 01760

In the Claims:

Kindly amend Claim 26 to read as follows:

25  
26. The method of Claim 21, wherein the step of using predefined fields further  
20  
comprises the step of formatting the fields to contain variables and the rules to be  
applied to those variables.

Kindly add Claim 30 as follows:

29  
30. An apparatus for communicating information about automatically processing at  
least one negotiation between first and second users who are communicating over a  
network to each other negotiation terms that include a plurality of variables,  
comprising:

65 a contract authority for assigning a unique identifier to such a negotiation;

and

negotiations software configured for processing such a negotiation by:  
70  
responding to and recognizing the first and second users as  
negotiators,

designating one of the users as a deciding entity;

receiving a negotiation term from one of the users;

analyzing the negotiation term to understand its purpose;

formatting the negotiation term according to the understood purpose;  
placing the formatted negotiation term into a context supplied by at  
least one of the users;

indicating a detected change in a negotiation term to at least one of the  
users;

sending the negotiation term to one of the users;

storing the negotiation term; and

repeating the above processing until a signal is received from the deciding entity to  
stop negotiations.

[Kindly add Claim 31 as follows: 29

31. The apparatus of Claim 30, wherein the contract authority further comprises a  
contract router for routing negotiation information related to a unique identifier.

[Kindly add Claim 32 as follows: 30

32. The apparatus of Claim 31, wherein the contract authority further comprises a  
central contract switch for forwarding information from the contract router to a  
designated recipient.

[Kindly add Claim 33 as follows: 30

33. The apparatus of Claim 31, wherein the contract authority further comprises a  
dynamic contract manager for querying a contract router for information about an

identified negotiation.

[Kindly add Claim 34 as follows:

<sup>33</sup>~~34~~. A method for communicating information about automatically processing at least one negotiation between first and second users who are communicating over a network to each other negotiation terms that include a plurality of variables, comprising the steps of:

b5 assigning a unique identifier, through a contact authority, to such a negotiation;

responding to and recognizing the first and second users as negotiators;

designating one of the users as a deciding entity;

receiving a negotiation term from one of the users;

analyzing the negotiation term to understand its purpose;

formatting the negotiation term according to the understood purpose;

placing the formatted term into a context supplied by at least one of the users;

indicating a detected change in a negotiation term to at least one of the users;

sending the negotiation term to one of the users;

storing the negotiation term; and

repeating the above steps until a signal is received from the deciding entity to stop negotiations.

Kindly add Claim 35 as follows:

<sup>34</sup> 35. The method of Claim <sup>33</sup> 34, wherein the step of assigning a unique identifier further comprises the step of routing negotiation information related to a unique identifier through the use of a contract router.

Kindly add Claim 36 as follows:

<sup>35</sup> 36. The method of Claim <sup>34</sup> 35, wherein the step of assigning a unique identifier further comprises the step of forwarding information from the contract router to a designated recipient through the use of a central contract switch.

Kindly add Claim 37 as follows:

<sup>36</sup> 37. The method of Claim <sup>34</sup> 35, wherein the step of assigning a unique identifier further comprises the step of querying a contract router for information about an identified negotiation through the use of a dynamic contract manager.

Kindly add Claim 38 as follows:

38. An apparatus for communicating dynamic information during the automatic processing of at least one negotiation between first and second users who are communicating over a network to each other negotiation terms that include a plurality of variables, comprising:

a contract authority for assigning a unique identifier to a negotiation at the initiation of such a negotiation;

a dynamic contract manager for transforming rules for governing negotiations into an active template associated with the unique identifier, the active template containing terms for use during such a negotiation; and

negotiations software configured to process such a negotiation by:

responding to and recognizing the first and second users as negotiators,

designating one of the users as a deciding entity;

receiving a negotiation term from one of the users;

analyzing the negotiation term to understand its purpose;

formatting the negotiation term according to the understood purpose;

placing the formatted negotiation term into a context supplied by at least one of the users;

indicating a detected change in a negotiation term to at least one of the users;

sending the negotiation term to one of the users;  
storing the negotiation term; and  
repeating the above processing until a signal is received from the deciding entity to  
stop negotiations.

[Kindly add Claim 39 as follows:

38 39. The apparatus of Claim 38, wherein the active template further comprises  
predefined fields.

[Kindly add Claim 40 as follows:

B5 39 40. The apparatus of Claim 39, wherein the predefined fields further comprise fields  
formatted to provide variables to computer programs.

[Kindly add Claim 41 as follows:

40 41. The apparatus of Claim 39, wherein the predefined fields further comprise fields  
formatted to provide basic negotiation terms.

[Kindly add Claim 42 as follows:

41 42. The apparatus of Claim 39, wherein the predefined fields further comprise fields  
formatted to activate transactions during a negotiation.



[Kindly add Claim 43 as follows: 38

42 43. The apparatus of Claim 39, wherein the predefined fields further comprise fields formatted to receive variables communicated from a computer program.

[Kindly add Claim 44 as follows: 38

43 44. The apparatus of Claim 39, wherein the predefined fields further comprise fields formatted to contain variables and the rules to be applied to those variables.

[Kindly add Claim 45 as follows: 38

44 45. The apparatus of Claim 39, wherein the predefined fields further comprise fields formatted to specify actions to be taken at specified phases in a negotiation.

[Kindly add Claim 46 as follows: 38

45 46. The apparatus of Claim 39, wherein the predefined fields further comprise fields formatted to apply variables resulting from a designated negotiation iteration to a computer program.

[Kindly add Claim 47 as follows: 38

46 47. The apparatus of Claim 39, wherein the predefined fields further comprise fields formatted to supply security access control information associated with each variable.

[Kindly add Claim 48 as follows:

~~47~~ 48. A method for communicating dynamic information during the automatic processing of at least one negotiation between first and second users who are communicating over a network to each other negotiation terms that include a plurality of variables, comprising the steps of:

assigning a unique identifier to a negotiation at the initiation of such a negotiation through the use of a contract authority;

BS transforming rules for governing negotiations into an active template associated with the unique identifier through the use of a dynamic contract manager, the dynamic contract manager also inserting terms for use during such a negotiation into the active template;

responding to and recognizing the first and second users as negotiators,

designating one of the users as a deciding entity;

receiving a negotiation term from one of the users;

analyzing the negotiation term to understand its purpose;

formatting the negotiation term according to the understood purpose;

placing the formatted negotiation term into a context supplied by at least one

of the users;

indicating a detected change in a negotiation term to at least one of the users;

sending the negotiation term to one of the users;

storing the negotiation term; and

repeating the above processing until a signal is received from the deciding entity to stop negotiations.

[Kindly add Claim 49 as follows:

<sup>48</sup>~~48~~ <sup>47</sup>~~48~~. The method of Claim ~~48~~, wherein the step of inserting terms for use further comprises the step of using predefined fields.

B5 [Kindly add Claim 50 as follows:

<sup>49</sup>~~49~~ <sup>48</sup>~~49~~. The method of Claim ~~49~~, wherein the step of using predefined fields further comprises the step of formatting the fields to provide variables to computer programs.

[Kindly add Claim 51 as follows:

<sup>50</sup>~~50~~ <sup>48</sup>~~49~~. The method of Claim ~~49~~, wherein the step of using predefined fields further comprises the step of formatting the fields to provide basic negotiation terms.

R<sub>12</sub> [Kindly add Claim 52 as follows:

<sup>48</sup>  
51 ~~52~~. The method of Claim ~~49~~, wherein the step of using predefined fields further comprises the step of formatting the fields to activate transactions during a negotiation.

[Kindly add Claim 53 as follows:

<sup>48</sup>  
52 ~~53~~. The method of Claim ~~49~~, wherein the step of using predefined fields further comprises the step of formatting the fields to receive variables communicated from a computer program.

<sup>48</sup>  
B5 [Kindly add Claim 54 as follows:

53 ~~54~~. The method of Claim ~~49~~, wherein the step of using predefined fields further comprises the step of formatting the fields to contain variables and the rules to be applied to those variables.

[Kindly add Claim 55 as follows:

<sup>48</sup>  
54 ~~55~~. The method of Claim ~~49~~, wherein the step of using predefined fields further comprises the step of formatting the fields to specify actions to be taken at specified phases in a negotiation.

[Kindly add Claim 56 as follows:

<sup>48</sup>  
55 ~~56~~. The method of Claim ~~49~~, wherein the step of using predefined fields further

comprises the step of formatting the fields to apply variables resulting from a designated negotiation iteration to a computer program.

54 [ Kindly add Claim 57 as follows: 48

57. The method of Claim 49, wherein the step of using predefined fields further comprises the step of formatting the fields to supply security access control information associated with each variable.

55 [ Kindly add Claim 58 as follows:

57 58. An apparatus for providing user supplied context for the automatic processing of at least one negotiation between first and second users who are communicating over a network to each other negotiation terms that include a plurality of variables, comprising:

57 58 negotiations software configured to process such a negotiation by:

- responding to and recognizing the first and second users as negotiators,
- designating one of the users as a deciding entity;
- receiving a negotiation term over the network from one of the users;
- analyzing the negotiation term to understand its purpose;
- formatting the negotiation term according to the understood purpose;

selecting certain of the negotiation terms to be processed according to internationally accepted methods, and placing them into a context supplied by at least one of the users;

indicating a detected change in a negotiation term to at least one of the users;

sending the negotiation term over the network to one of the users;

storing the negotiation term; and

repeating the above processing until a signal is received from the deciding entity to stop negotiations.

B5  
[Kindly add Claim 59 as follows:

58 57  
59. The apparatus of claim 58, wherein the negotiations software further comprises sponsored community software which establishes community participation rules.

[Kindly add Claim 60 as follows:

59 57  
60. The apparatus of claim 58, wherein the internationally accepted methods include payment by a letter of credit.

[Kindly add Claim 61 as follows:

60 57  
61. The apparatus of claim 58, wherein the internationally accepted methods include payment by a wire transfer.

[Kindly add Claim 62 as follows:

61 62. The apparatus of claim ~~58~~<sup>57</sup>, wherein the internationally accepted methods include payment by documentary collection.

[Kindly add Claim 63 as follows:

62 63. The apparatus of claim ~~58~~<sup>57</sup>, wherein the network further comprises a transmission terminal connected to the network for transmitting a negotiated international payment to an advising bank.

65  
[Kindly add Claim 64 as follows:

63 64. A method for providing user supplied context for the automatic processing of at least one negotiation between first and second users who are communicating to each other negotiation terms that include a plurality of variables, comprising the steps of:

establishing a communications path over a network,  
responding to and recognizing the first and second users as negotiators,  
designating one of the users as a deciding entity;  
receiving a negotiation term over the network from one of the users;  
analyzing the negotiation term to understand its purpose;

formatting the negotiation term according to the understood purpose;  
selecting certain of the negotiation terms to be processed according to internationally accepted methods, and placing the formatted terms into a context supplied by at least one of the users;  
indicating a detected change in a negotiation term to at least one of the users;  
sending the negotiation term over the network to one of the users;  
storing the negotiation term; and  
repeating the above processing until a signal is received from the deciding entity to stop negotiations.

B5 [Kindly add Claim 65 as follows:

64 ~~65~~ The method of claim ~~64~~ <sup>63</sup>, wherein the step of responding to a user further comprises the step of sponsoring a community with established community participation rules.

[Kindly add Claim 66 as follows:

65 ~~66~~ The method of claim ~~64~~ <sup>63</sup>, wherein the step of selecting certain of the terms to be processed according to internationally accepted methods further comprises the step of processing negotiation of a letter of credit.

[Kindly add Claim 67 as follows:



<sup>66</sup>~~67~~. The method of claim <sup>63</sup>~~64~~, wherein the step of selecting certain of the terms to be processed according to internationally accepted methods further comprises the step of processing negotiation of a wire transfer.

[Kindly add Claim 68 as follows:

<sup>67</sup>~~68~~. The method of claim <sup>63</sup>~~64~~, wherein the step of selecting certain of the terms to be processed according to internationally accepted methods further comprises the step of processing negotiation of a documentary collection.

35 [Kindly add Claim 69 as follows:

<sup>68</sup>~~69~~. The method of claim <sup>63</sup>~~64~~, wherein the step of selecting certain of the terms to be processed according to internationally accepted methods further comprises the step of activating a transmission terminal connected to the network for transmitting a negotiated international payment to an advising bank.

[Kindly add Claim 70 as follows:

<sup>69</sup>~~70~~. An apparatus for providing user supplied context for the automatic processing

of at least one negotiation between first and second users who are communicating over a network to each other negotiation terms that include a plurality of variables, comprising:

g  
cl  
ms  
cl  
sponsored community software for defining community participation rules;

negotiations software configured to process such a negotiation by:

responding to and recognizing the first and second users as

negotiators,

designating one of the users as a deciding entity;

receiving a negotiation term over the network from one of the users;

analyzing the negotiation term to understand its purpose;

formatting the negotiation term according to the understood purpose;

selecting certain of the formatted negotiation terms to be processed

according to community participation rules;

placing the formatted term into a context supplied by at least one of the

users;

indicating a detected change in a negotiation term to at least one of the

users;

sending the negotiation term over the network to one of the users;

storing the negotiation term; and

repeating the above processing until a signal is received from the deciding entity to stop negotiations.

[Kindly add Claim 71 as follows:

70 71. The apparatus of claim ~~70~~<sup>69</sup>, wherein the sponsored community software integrates new members desiring to participate in negotiations.

[Kindly add Claim 72 as follows:

71 72. The apparatus of claim ~~71~~<sup>70</sup>, wherein the integration of new members desiring to participate in negotiations further comprises automatically registering such new members with a sponsored community search engine.

[Kindly add Claim 73 as follows:

72 73. The apparatus of claim ~~71~~<sup>70</sup>, wherein the integration of new members desiring to participate in negotiations further comprises automatically submitting a new member's name to appropriate external network search engines.

[Kindly add Claim 74 as follows:

73 74. The apparatus of claim ~~71~~<sup>70</sup>, wherein the integration of new members desiring to participate in negotiations further comprises automatically submitting a new member's name to appropriate identifying agencies.

Kindly add Claim 75 as follows:

74 75. The apparatus of claim ~~71~~<sup>70</sup>, wherein the integration of new members desiring to participate in negotiations further comprises automatically including the new member's name at the top of any vendor databases listed in the sponsored community.

Kindly add Claim 76 as follows:

75 76. The apparatus of claim ~~71~~<sup>70</sup>, wherein the integration of new members desiring to participate in negotiations further comprises automatically allowing the new member access to the sponsored community's own functions.

BS Kindly add Claim 77 as follows:

76 77. The apparatus of claim ~~71~~<sup>70</sup>, wherein the integration of new members desiring to participate in negotiations further comprises automatically promoting the visibility of the new member.

Kindly add Claim 78 as follows:

77 78. The apparatus of claim ~~77~~<sup>76</sup>, wherein automatically promoting the visibility of the new member further comprises:

means for formatting sponsored community names, member names, and uniform resource locators into appropriate formats;

means for selecting search engines;

means for selecting submission schedules more likely to speed up registration with the selected search engines; and

means for aggregating submissions of sponsored community names, member names, and uniform resource locators to optimize registration and visibility and automatically submitting the aggregated submissions to the selected search engines on the selected schedules.

BS

[Kindly add Claim 79 as follows:

78  
79. A method for providing user supplied context for the automatic processing of at least one negotiation between first and second users who are communicating to each other negotiation terms that include a plurality of variables, comprising the steps of:

establishing a communications path over a network;

defining community participation rules by activating sponsored community software;

responding to and recognizing the first and second users as negotiators,

designating one of the users as a deciding entity;

receiving a negotiation term over the network from one of the users;  
analyzing the negotiation term to understand its purpose;  
formatting the negotiation term according to the understood purpose;  
selecting certain of the formatted terms to be processed according to  
community participation rule;  
placing the formatted negotiation term into a context supplied by at least one  
of the users;  
indicating a detected change in a negotiation term to at least one of the users;  
sending the negotiation term over the network to one of the users;  
storing the negotiation term; and  
repeating the above processing until a signal is received from the deciding entity to  
stop negotiations.

65  
[Kindly add Claim 80 as follows:

79 80. The method of claim <sup>78</sup>~~79~~, wherein the step of defining community participation  
rules further comprises the step of integrating new members desiring to participate  
in negotiations.

[Kindly add Claim 81 as follows:

80 81. The method of claim <sup>79</sup>~~80~~, wherein the step of integrating new members desiring  
to participate in negotiations further comprises the step of automatically registering

such new members with a sponsored community search engine.

[Kindly add Claim 82 as follows:

82. The method of claim 80, wherein the step of integrating new members desiring to participate in negotiations further comprises the step of automatically submitting a new member's name to appropriate external network search engines.

[Kindly add Claim 83 as follows:

83. The method of claim 80, wherein the step of integrating new members desiring to participate in negotiations further comprises the step of automatically submitting a new member's name to appropriate identifying agencies.

[Kindly add Claim 84 as follows:

84. The method of claim 80, wherein the step of integrating new members desiring to participate in negotiations further comprises the step of automatically including the new member's name at the top of any vendor databases listed in the sponsored community.

[Kindly add Claim 85 as follows:

85. The method of claim 80, wherein the step of integrating new members desiring to participate in negotiations further comprises the step of automatically allowing

the new member access to the sponsored community's online functions.

Kindly add Claim 86 as follows:

86. The method of claim ~~80~~<sup>79</sup>, wherein the step of integrating new members desiring to participate in negotiations further comprises the step of automatically promoting the visibility of the new member.

Kindly add Claim 87 as follows:

87. The method of claim ~~80~~<sup>79</sup>, wherein the step of automatically promoting the visibility of the new member further comprises the steps of:

formatting sponsored community names, member names, and uniform resource locators into appropriate formats;

selecting search engines;

selecting submission schedules more likely to speed up registration with the selected search engines; and

aggregating submissions of sponsored community names, member names, and uniform resource locators to optimize registration and visibility and automatically submitting the aggregated submissions to the selected search engines on the selected schedules.

Kindly add Claim 88 as follows:



87 ~~88~~. The method of claim ~~79~~<sup>78</sup>, wherein the step of selecting certain of the terms to be processed by community participation rules further comprises the step of managing negotiations according to the community participation rules.

85 [Kindly add Claim 89 as follows:

~~88~~<sup>88</sup>. The method of claim ~~79~~<sup>78</sup>, wherein the step of selecting certain of the terms to be processed by community participation rules further comprises the step of incorporating generally accepted laws and customs applicable to the sponsored community.

---